



**COUNCIL OF CHIEF STATE SCHOOL OFFICERS**

One Massachusetts Avenue NW • Suite 700 • Washington, DC 20001-1431

Phone (202) 336-7000 • Fax (202) 408-8072

[www.ccsso.org](http://www.ccsso.org)

March 30, 2005

Chairman Kevin Martin  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

In the Matter of: Nomination for Universal Service Administrative Company Board of Directors, CC Docket Nos. 97-21 and 96-45

Dear Chairman Martin:

The Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO), which represents the nation's top state education officials, is pleased to nominate Julie Tritt Schell to fill the schools representative vacancy on the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) Board of Directors.

The Council submits this recommendation in light of Ms. Schell's background working on E-rate at the local, state, and national level. As the State E-rate Coordinator for the Pennsylvania Department of Education, Ms. Schell has provided E-rate outreach, coordination, and assistance to Pennsylvania schools and libraries, from small, rural schools and libraries to large, urban ones. Therefore, Julie Tritt Schell is keenly aware of both the E-rate and telecommunications challenges that affect most applicant types. She also is responsible for aligning Pennsylvania's technology plan standards, guidelines, and approval processes with FCC requirements. Ms. Schell has written national articles on E-rate and served on several SLC/SLD task forces formed to improve the program and re-engineer the application forms, which has given her significant experience in improving the E-rate program.

Ms. Schell has a public policy and education background and is well-known at the local, state, and national level as an E-rate expert who can see and respect all sides of an issue and who helps to develop solutions based on consensus. Julie Tritt Schell's broad range of knowledge of the program and its operations, both from the applicant level and the national policy level, makes her extremely well-qualified to represent the interests of schools on the USAC Board.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of our recommendation.

Sincerely,

G. Thomas Houlihan  
Executive Director